

**GENES IDENTIFIED AS REQUIRED FOR PROLIFERATION OF *E.*
*COLI***

Abstract of the Disclosure

The sequences of nucleic acids encoding proteins required for *E. coli* proliferation are disclosed. The nucleic acids can also be used to screen for homologous genes that are required for proliferation in microorganisms other than *E. coli*. The nucleic acids can also be used to design expression vectors and secretion vectors. The nucleic acids can be used to express proteins or portions thereof, to obtain antibodies capable of specifically binding to the expressed proteins, and to use those expressed proteins as a screen to isolate candidate molecules for rational drug discovery programs. The nucleic acids of the present invention can also be used in various assay systems to screen for antimicrobial agents.

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